

(32) patterning and etching said cap wafer and said adhesive layer to form islands of layers of said cap wafer and said adhesive layer on said substrate wafer; and

(43) ~~patterning and~~ depositing and patterning at least  
5 one metal and/or insulator layer on said islands to form a sidewall around each of said islands.

2. (Currently amended)

The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps  
10 of:

(1) patterning and etching etch access holes in said cap wafer of said enclosures;

(2) removing said adhesive layer through said etch access holes from said enclosures; and

15 (3) sealing said etch access holes with deposited films.

3. (Canceled)

The method of claim 1, wherein said step (3) of  
20 patterning and etching said cap wafer and said adhesive layer to form islands of layers of said cap wafer and said adhesive layer on said substrate wafer, further comprises the step of patterning and etching a center boss in said cap wafer.

25

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said etching is accomplished with high-density plasma that contains hydrogen or argon.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said substrate wafer comprises one or more of following:

- 5        micro-electro-mechanical device,  
  
         polymeric sacrificial layer,  
  
         polymeric planarizing layer,  
10        microelectronic circuit,  
  
         and electrical component,  
  
15        prior to said bonding.

6. (Currently amended)

         The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the~~ a step  
of depositing getters on said cap wafer prior to said step  
20 (1) of bonding a cap wafer to said substrate wafer with an  
adhesive layer and subsequent heat activation of said  
getters.

7. (Currently amended)

25        The method of claim 2, wherein ~~at least one of~~ said  
deposited films comprises gas gettering materials.

8. (Original)

The method of claim 7, wherein said gettering materials comprise one or more of the following:

TiN<sub>x</sub>O<sub>y</sub>

5

TiZr<sub>x</sub>

TiN<sub>x</sub>

10

9. (Canceled)

The method of claim 1, wherein said islands have holes for forming support posts within confines of said islands.

15 10. (Canceled)

The substrate wafer in claim 1 comprises micro-electro-mechanical (MEMS) devices fabricated thereon prior to said bonding, said micro enclosures surround said MEMS devices.

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11. (Original)

The method of claim 2, wherein in said sealing is done under controlled gas pressure environment comprising high vacuum or inert gas.

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12. (Original)

The method of claim 2, wherein said enclosures form pressure transducers.

13. (Original)

The method of claim 2, wherein said enclosures form vacuum or hermetic packaging.

5

14. (Original)

The method of claim 2, wherein said removing said adhesive layer is by etching with oxygenated plasma.

10 15. (Original)

Said etching in claim 14 further removes any organic polymer coating or sacrificial layer present in said enclosures.

15 16. (Canceled)

The method of claim 1, wherein at least one high conductivity metal film is deposited on at least one surface of said cap wafer prior to said step (1).

20 17. (Original)

The method of claim 1, wherein said depositing at least on metal layer is by physical vapor deposition, plating, electroplating, or chemical vapor deposition.

25 18. (Canceled)

The method of claim 1 further comprises the steps of patterning and etching bosses after said step (2).

19. (Currently amended)

~~A~~The method of claim 1, further comprises~~ing~~  
planarizing ~~a~~said substrate wafer prior to said bonding,  
comprising steps of:

- 5    coating said wafer with a thick epoxy layer;  
     curing said epoxy layer by heat or ultraviolet light; and  
     thinning said epoxy layer to the desired thickness by  
     lapping, grinding or polishing.

10    20. (Original)

     The method of claim 19, wherein said thick epoxy layer  
     fills holes, cavities, troughs, or underside space of  
     suspended structures.

15    21. (Original)

     The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of  
     placing said wafer under a vacuum during or after said  
     coating.

20    22. (Canceled)

     A system for making small enclosures on a substrate  
     wafer, comprising:

     a means for bonding a cap wafer to said substrate  
     wafer with an adhesive layer;

- 25        a means for thinning said cap wafer to desired  
     thickness;

a means for patterning and etching said cap wafer and said adhesive to form islands of layers of said cap wafer and said adhesive on said substrate wafer; and

5 a means patterning and depositing at least one metal layer on said islands to form a sidewall around said islands.

23. (Canceled)

A vacuum or hermetic packaging enclosure comprising  
10 a sidewall formed from deposited film;  
a top formed from epoxy bonded wafer; and  
a substrate; wherein said epoxy bonded wafer is bonded to and said deposited film is deposited on said substrate; said epoxy-bonded wafer comprise etch access; and  
15 said etch access holes are sealed with deposited films.

24. (Canceled)

An stepping electrostatic actuator of a MEMS device,  
20 comprising: a suspended electrode as part of a bridge or a cantilever and a fixed electrode on a substrate; said fixed electrode is directly below said suspended electrode; said fixed electrode form a stair or a slope.

25 25. (Canceled)

Said stepping electrostatic actuator in claim 24, wherein said stair of said fixed electrode comprises a plurality of steps, said steps are electrically insulated

from each other and can be biased individually or collectively.

26. (Canceled)

5        Said MEMS device in claim 24 is a tunable Fabry-Perot interferometer or a light switch.

27. (Canceled)

      Said MEMS device in claim 24 is a tunable capacitor, a  
10 RF switch, or a DC electrical switch.

28. (Original)

      The method of claim 1, wherein said adhesive layer is disposed by spinning and said spinning is at speed of  
15 between 1500 rpm to 7000 rpm for less than 2 seconds.

29. (Original)

      The method of claim 1, wherein said adhesive layer comprises Abocast 50-24 epoxy resin from Abatron,  
20 Incorporated, Kenosha, WI 53144 USA.

25    **In the Specifications**

      Page 33 line 25 is now amended to read "electrostatic actuator\_embodiment is called stepping".